

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 AID-20 PC-10 DRC-01 /111 W

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O P 121320Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4941

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0994

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PINT, ES

SUBJECT: ELECTION RETURNS DELAYED

REF: SAN SALVADOR 0973

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. EMBOFF VISITED CCE 5:00 PM MARCH 11 AS SUGGESTED EARLIER BY CCE SECRETARY (REFTEL). HE WAS INFORMED, HOWEVER, THAT VOTE RECOUNT, STILL AT DEPARTMENTAL LEVEL, WAS GOING "VERY, VERY SLOWLY" AND THAT OFFICIAL RESULTS FROM CCE SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED UNTIL END OF THE WEEK. BOTH MORNING AND AFTERNOON PRESS REPORTS THAT UNO'S MORALES EHRlich CLINCHED SAN SALVADOR MUNICIPAL RACE BY TWO OR THREE TO ONE OVER THE PCN'S RODRIGUEZ GONZALEZ. PCN SECRETARY GENERAL RUBEN ALFONSO RODRIGUEZ TOLD PRESS THAT REPORTS FROM PCN DEPARTMENTAL LEADERS ASSURE THE OFFICIAL PARTY 35 SEATS IN THE FORTHCOMING ASSEMBLY, I.E., MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS. IN PRIVATE, UNO LEADERS REMAIN PESSIMISTIC ABOUT VERACITY OF FINAL VOTE COUNT AND CONTINUE TO ASSERT GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ALLOW THREE OPPOSITION PARTIES TO DEPRIVE PCN OF ITS TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN THE ASSEMBLY.

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2. SOMETHING OF A FUSS HAS ARISEN IN AHUACHAPAN WHERE FUDI (IN ALLIANCE WITH UNO) MAY WELL HAVE CAPTURED TWO OF THREE ASSEMBLY SEATS FROM THAT DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS THE MUNICIPALITY OF AHUACHAPAN ITSELF. TWO AIRCRAFT DROPPED LEAFLETS WITH SPURIOUS INFORMATION OVER AHUACHAPAN ON VOTING DAY (WHEN PROPAGANDA PROHIBITED) WHICH IN THE NAME OF PRESIDENT MOLINA, URGED PCN SUPPORTERS TO VOTE FUDI SINCE PCN SLATES THERE HAD BEEN RULED INELIGIBLE AT LAST MINUTE. NOT SURPRISINGLY, ONE OF THE AIRCRAFT APPARENTLY BELONG TO FUDI LEADER SALAVERRIA.

3. COMMENT: CCE DELAY IN ISSUING VOTE COUNT INCREASES SUSPICIONS THAT GOVERNMENT IS JUGGLING THE RETURNS TO ASSURE ITS DOMINANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. THIS HAD PRODUCED LITTLE REACTION THUS FAR SINCE MANY OBSERVERS ASSUMED THIS WOULD HAPPEN ANYWAY.
MOSKOWITZ

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